

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8568

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 907

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, FI (HAGLUND, LEE)

SUBJECT: FINNISH PRESS BREAKS SECRECY ON HAGLUND CASE

REF: HELSINKI 637, 687 AND 795

1. HAGLUND CASE HAS BROKEN IN FINNISH PRESS. SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE SAID HE ACTING FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRY INTELLIGENCE; BIGGEST MORNING PAPER AND AFTERNOON PAPERS APRIL 24 DESCRIBING HAGLUND AS DOUBLE AGENT. WIRE SERVICES CARRYING HAGLUND STORY AND WE BELIEVE PRESS SPOKESMAN SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS ON IT.

2. REFTELS REPORT EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF CASE. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH MORE RECENT EVENTS. LIKELY QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTED ANSWERS FOLLOW.

3. QUESTION: AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ARRESTED IN FINLAND. CAN YOU PROVIDE DETAILS? SUGGESTED REPLY: LEE GUNNAR HAGLUND, A 24-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, WAS ARRESTED BY FINNISH POLICE ON MARCH 10. HE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH PERFORMING ACTSENDANGERING FINLAND'S RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS. HIS TRIAL IS TO BEGIN IN HELSINKI ON APRIL 29.

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4. QUESTION: WHAT HAS OUR EMBASSY DONE TO ASSIST MR. HAGLUND? SUGGESTED REPLY: UPON LEARNING OF THE ARREST, THE AMERICAN CONSUL VISITED MR. HAGLUND AND DISCUSSED HIS CASE WITH THE POLICE. HE HAS SINCE TALKED SEVERAL TIMES WITH MR. HAGLUND AND HAS VERIFIED THAT HE IS BEING TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINNISH LAW. WHEN THE FINNISH AUTHORITIES DECIDED TO TAKE THE CASE TO TRIAL, THE CONSUL VERIFIED THAT MR. HAGLUND WOULD HAVE PROPER LEGAL REPRESENTATION. THE EMBASSY HAS KEPT MR. HAGLUND'S FAMILY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

5. QUESTION: REPORTS HAVE IT THAT HAGLUND'S TRIAL WILL BE SECRET. WHY? SUGGESTED REPLY: ACCORDING TO FINNISH LAW SOME TRIALS MUST BE HELD "BEHIND CLOSED DOORS," SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE. COURTS ALSO HAVE RIGHT TO RULE THAT A TRIAL SHOULD BE HELD "BEHIND CLOSED DOORS" WHEN CASE INVOLVES MORALS OR THE SECURITY OF THE STATE.

6. QUESTION: DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE FACTS OR THE PROCEEDINGS WILL ALSO BE KEPT SECRET? SUGGESTED REPLY: ACCORDING TO FINNISH LAW THE COURT DECIDES ON WHETHER ANY PART OF CLOSED DOOR TRIAL CAN BE MADE PUBLIC.

7 IN VIEW PRESS ALLEGATIONS HAGLUND WAS DOUBLE AGENT FOR EASTERN AND WESTERN INTELLIGENCE, DEPT SHOULD BE PREPARED HANDLE QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT WITH US. WE DEFER DEPT ON HANDLING BUT OUR INFO IS THAT HE WAS BEING RECRUITED BY SOVIET INTELLIGENCE.

8. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED BY DEPT OF ANY QUESTIONS AND REPLIES MADE BY DEPT SPOKESMAN . EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR QUESTIONS EVEN IF NOT USED.
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